City Insight August 2019

A MESSAGE FROM MAYOR JOSE SEGARRA



Dear Residents,

It is time again for your City to develop its annual budget for the coming fiscal year. The City Manager delivered his bal-

anced proposal to City Council August 6 in accordance with the City Charter. Now City Council will spend August and September reviewing it in detail.

The budget is a challenge every fiscal year with demands for service exceeding available resources. While tax base growth, additional state reimbursement for the disproportionate impact of veterans exemptions and new Street Maintenance Fee revenue provide an improved financial outlook, we continue to experience population growth and increased demands for service.

City Council will work over the next several weeks to balance what the community wants with what the budget can afford. As part of that process, the public has multiple opportunities to voice its thoughts at public hearings. I encourage every resident to engage in this process so we can have the best plan for City services in the new fiscal year.

We have created a central webpage that contains the proposed budget, staff presentations, City Council meeting videos, important dates and more. I hope you will use it to better understand your City. It is available now at KilleenTexas.gov/Budget.

The Fiscal Year 2020 Budget is set to be adopted September 17, and will take effect October 1, 2019.

BUDGET CALENDAR

August 6

Proposed Budget Delivered

August & September

Budget Workshops

August 20

Budget Public Hearing Preliminary Tax Rate Set

September 3

Budget Public Hearing Tax Rate Public Hearing

September 10

Budget Public Hearing Tax Rate Public Hearing

September 17

Budget Adoption

October 1

Fiscal Year 2020 Begins

STREET MAINTENANCE FEES TAKE EFFECT

Your City utility bill now includes a Street Maintenance Fee. The fee took effect July 1 and will appear on your bill each month under service code SF.

The fee for single-family homes is \$1.70 per month. Other residential properties are assessed a single-family equivalent fee per unit. Non-residential properties are charged based on a single-family equivalent by use type and square footage.

Revenue collected from the fee will be placed in a Street Maintenance Fund to be used solely for maintaining existing streets. The money cannot be used for road construction or reconstruction.

Street maintenance has had to compete with other budget prior-

ities limiting the amount of funding that could be allocated each year to about \$400,000. The Street Maintenance Fee will bring in approximately \$1.6 million per year quadrupling the amount previously available. The added revenue will allow significant progress on existing needs and provide for preventative treatments to extend pavement life.

Killeen City Council established improving existing city streets as a priority, and after months of deliberation adopted the ordinance creating the new fee last December. City staff has worked for six months to ensure that the fee is applied correctly to each property each month.

To jumpstart street mainte-

nance, City Council set aside \$330,000 so that the program could begin in advance of fee collection. The first area to receive maintenance is in northeast Killeen between Cedarhill Drive and Westcliff Road. Work is expected to begin in October.

A new street condition study is underway to determine the current status of each street in Killeen. This updated information will help establish priority for scheduling future work. Residents can expect to see projects completed in large, contiguous areas in the late summer months each year.

For more details, visit the Street Maintenance Fee webpage at KilleenTexas.gov/SMF.

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT OCTOBER 1

Join the fight against crime in Killeen at the 36th annual National Night Out October 1 from 6 to 9 p.m.

Neighborhoods across
Killeen are invited to
participate by locking
your doors, turning on
your outside lights and
getting to know your neighbors.

National Night Out is a crime and drug prevention event designed to strengthen neighborhood spirit and police-community partnerships. Join in sending a message to criminals that you and your neighbors are organized and fighting back against crime and drugs.

Some neighborhoods have been hosting National Night Out events for decades, and some are starting new. A cookout, an ice cream social or a neighborhood walk are all great ways

to bring people together.

Uniting around the common goal of kicking crime out of neighborhoods has proven effective.

Whether through National Night Out events or better yet Neighborhood Watch,

working together is the key element in community safety.

Killeen Police and Fire personnel and McGruff the Crime Dog will be making the rounds to visit every National Night Out gathering. Those who serve will meet those they serve to create a stronger bond between public safety and the community.

If you are planning a National Night Out event or would like to attend one, contact Tammy Moseley at 501-8805 or tmoseley@killeentexas.gov for more information.

FUR-EVER YOURS

Killeen Animal Shelter remains full and needs the community to help increase adoptions. The shelter has dogs and cats of all ages, breeds, sizes and temperaments in need of forever homes.



The shelter is located at 3118 Commerce Drive and is open for adoptions Monday through Saturday from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Animals ready for homes can be viewed on the City's website.

If you can't adopt but wish to support Killeen Animal Shelter, you can make a contribution through your monthly utility bill.

RECYCLING NOW MORE CONVENIENT

The City of Killeen has added two new recycling locations for your convenience. Recycling trailers are open 24 hours a day at the Clear Creek water tower at 6520 Clear Creek Road and near the Killeen Rodeo Grounds at 3201 S. WS Young Drive.

Recyclers can take all types of paper and cardboard, #1 and #2 plastics, steel, tin and aluminum cans and glass for free recycling. Details and instructions are printed on the trailers to show

you how to use them properly.

Materials not accepted include household garbage, tires, plastics #3 through #7, plastic shopping bags, Styrofoam and wax-lined containers like milk cartons.

Killeen Recycling Center and Killeen Transfer Station also accept recyclables as well as used cooking oil, used automotive oil and filters, cell phones and rechargeable batteries. Both facilities are open to the public weekdays.



Help Killeen go green by keeping recyclable materials out of the landfill.

For more information on Solid Waste Services, visit KilleenTexas.gov/Waste.

GET IN THE KNOW

The City of Killeen is always working on something, and we want to keep you in the know.

KilleenTexas.gov is our hub for information. You can find details on every service the City offers along with news, calendars, meetings and emergency alerts. You can even subscribe to various features to be contacted directly by email or text.

If social media is more your style, we're there too. We post content daily including original videos, events and notices. Plus, we answer your questions!

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